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THE ORGANIZED FARMER

April, 1957

Alberta Egg Marketing
Plan

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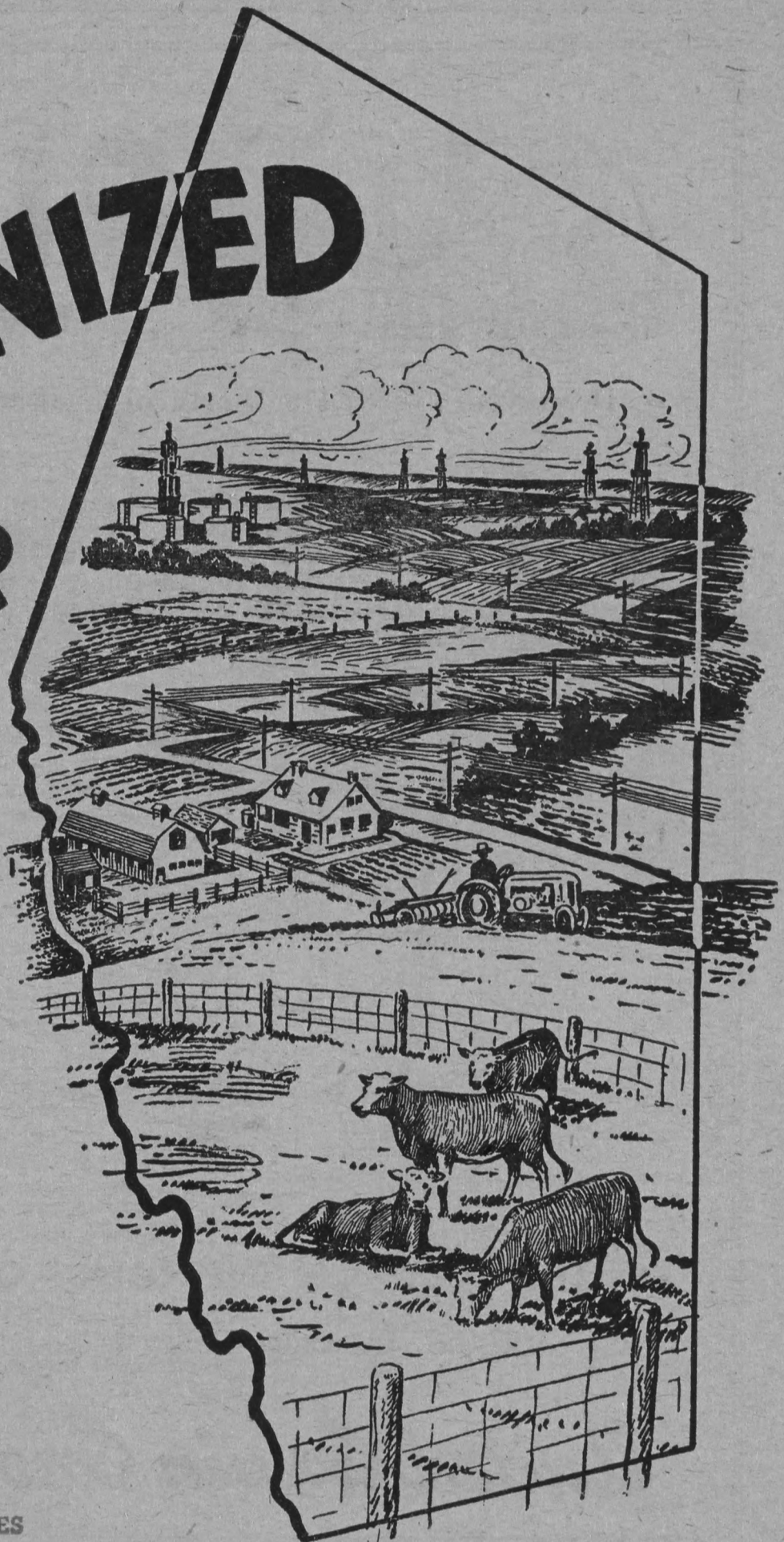
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GENERAL SCIENCES

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President's Report

The past three weeks has been a time of meetings. Meetings with F.U.A. people in the country, meetings with other groups and meetings of committees, sub-district conventions and workshops.

It has been my pleasure to attend some ten farm union meetings. All were well attended and were helpful to me in gaining further knowledge of farm problems and the thinking of our members. These meetings were widely scattered over the province and I was impressed with similarity of both the problems and the thinking of the people in all parts. I still find the odd individual who is asking what the Union is doing for him. I believe that this type of thinking is becoming less common and more and more I am asked what I can do to help the Union. As this latter thinking becomes more and more prevalent so will the Union prosper and do more for all of us.

I have also had the opportunity to address several meetings of boards of trades and other groups interested in agricultural problems. I find these people sympathetic to farm people

and their problems but they are reluctant to face up to the realities of the situation.

The proposed Egg Marketing Plan has taken considerable time. A committee composed of representatives of the poultry groups, co-operatives and farm unions have been busy preparing material for speakers, arranging for meetings and many other things necessary to get the facts before the egg producers before they are asked to vote in late June. Much of the material prepared has or will appear in The Organized Farmer. Mr. Bill Harper of the Co-op Union is chairman of the committee and Jim McFall of the Alberta Federation of Agriculture is secretary. They are doing a fine job.

Spring is again upon us, no matter how grumpy we are one cannot help but feel optimistic when the snow banks begin to disappear and the sun warms the earth and the good, clean smell of freshly turned soil fills the air. I suppose all Canadians welcome spring but no one else welcomes it in the same way as a farmer. In a sense it is the real beginning of the New Year. It is time of Nature's re-birth and a time of hope for all farmers — for a good

(Continued on Page 4)

Across The Secretary's Desk



By Mrs. Pansy Molen

FARM YOUNG PEOPLE'S WEEK

Farm Young People's Week will be held this year from June 4th to 12th at the University of Alberta, Edmonton. Any farm boy or girl between 16 and 27 is welcome to attend. They may come at their own expense (\$28.00 plus transportation and a few extra dollars for pocket money), or boys and girls may come as delegates sponsored by F.U.A. locals, and districts, by F.W.U.A. or Junior locals, by the Wheat Pool or some other organization of this type.

One day, June 5th, has been set aside for the annual meeting of the Junior F.U.A. All young people at the gathering will be invited to attend this meeting, but only F.U.A. junior members will be eligible to take part in the voting and election of officials. The president, executive members and directors of the Junior F.U.A. will be elected at this time.

Programs and registration forms will be mailed to all local secretaries. Additional forms are available at central office or at the university department of extension.

This is a wonderful course for farm young people and we hope that all locals will try to send someone from their district.

LIBRARY SCHOLARSHIPS

The Alberta Government wishes to announce that two \$500 Library Scholarships are available for students having at least a Bachelor Degree (B.A., B.Sc., B. Ed., etc.). These scholarships are tenable at any accredited library school. For further information or for application forms write to Mr. Eric Holmgren, Supervisor of Public Libraries, Department of Economic Affairs, Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

crop, for good prices and all that this can mean for him and his family. Perhaps these dreams will not be realized for no one knows better than we farmers the pitfalls of disaster that can be in our path but for now at least we can hope that this will be a good year. Without hope life is not worth living.

CAR INSURANCE AT COST

At the annual convention of the F.U.A. the board was instructed to appoint a committee to arrange for a Car Insurance Pool for F.U.A. members, to be administered by a car insurance company.

After negotiating with a number of companies we were fortunate in obtaining the services of the Co-op Fire and Casualty Co. This company is well established and is administering insurance programs in all parts of Canada.

In order to obtain the best results we have agreed that it is necessary to insure at least 7500 vehicles at the regular low insurance rates quoted by the Co-op Fire and Casualty Company before establishing this pool (vehicles owned by F.U.A. members and already insured in Co-op Fire and Casualty will be automatically included in the F.U.A. Pool).

The rest is up to you — our immediate target is 7500 vehicles so that the pool can be set up before our annual convention. We are counting on every member insuring every vehicle with Co-op Fire and Casualty as present policies expire.

Once this is in operation it will mean that F.U.A. members will obtain insurance at cost — only actual expenses of administration and claims being withdrawn from the pool — the balance being available for rate reductions in subsequent years.

If you are interested please fill out the following form and forward to Co-op Fire and Casualty.

F.U.A. CAR INSURANCE POOL

I am interested in insuring the following vehicles through the F.U.A. Car Insurance Pool and would ask to be reminded one month before my present policies expire by forwarding me rates and application forms.

Type of Vehicle	My present policy Expires
1. _____	_____
2. _____	_____
3. _____	_____

Name _____

Address _____

(Please Print)

Please hand this to your F.U.A. secretary or forward to Co-operative Fire and Casualty Co., 402 Northern Hardware Building, Edmonton.

ALBERTA EGG MARKETING PLAN

EXPLAINING ITS PURPOSE & OPERATION

Introduction:

In the agricultural industry rapid and far reaching changes are taking place, a change from the open system to the board system of marketing. There are two types of boards — a government board, such as the Canadian Wheat Board, set up by and responsible to the government; and producer boards set up by and responsible to the producers — both being similar in operation and principle and both requiring legislation under which they can be set up and operated.

Farmers, generally, are faced with the serious problems — over which they have no control — of very high and still increasing costs of production on the one hand and very low prices in relation to their costs on the other.

The change which is taking place indicates a sincere and determined endeavour by farmers to find a solution to their own economic problems.

Farm Marketing Policies:

Through their farmer unions, federations of agriculture and, in fact, all major farm organizations across Canada, farmers have given full support to the board system because it offers the best possible long-term answer. The Canadian Federation of Agriculture in a recent policy statement on farm marketing recommended:

1. The Wheat Board system should be maintained as the best method presently available for the marketing of prairie grain production.
2. Primary responsibility for marketing farm products, more particularly in the domestic market, should rest with the producer, operating through producer co-operatives and/or producer controlled provincial, regional and national marketing boards.

There has been, and no doubt continue to be, strong opposition by non-farm groups — supported by press editorial opinion — to any attempt on the part of the farmers to gain some effective voice in the marketing of their products. It remains to be seen what effect this outside influence may have back on the farm.

Purpose:

The purpose of this Plan is to provide for the establishment of a modern system of orderly marketing through the setting up of a board

of producers with the necessary authority to effectively direct the marketing of eggs, including the carrying out of a program of dealing with and disposing of the basic problem of surpluses, both seasonal and overall, thereby more efficiently meeting the requirements of our present day standard of living and our ability to produce. The Board shall be wholly responsible to the producers and shall be charged with the first responsibility of marketing all of the product to the best advantage of all the producers.

The objectives in the operation of the Plan shall be:

- (a) Development of an overall marketing program which will enable producers to direct the business of marketing their own product and regain for themselves a maximum of bargaining power and the right to determine prices in respect of their product.
- (b) Development of a surplus disposal program through:
 - (1) Obtaining and holding the highest possible level of domestic consumption by:
 - a. Eliminating speculation, with its wide price fluctuation in the physical handling of the product, and
 - b. A price policy with an informational and educational program which will assist and guide producers in more intelligently planning their production program, thus assuring continuity of supply and quality of product.
 - (2) Long-term marketing agreements, with outside markets, by such arrangements and methods as are possible only, by the producers, through the use of such powers and provisions as are contained in this plan.
- (c) Greater efficiency in both production and marketing, including improvement of methods and practices followed in respect thereof.

Organization:

The Alberta Egg Marketing Plan was prepared by the Alberta Poultry Federation — a wholly producer body. It has been approved by the provincial government and committees have been set up to promote and carry out a program of education and information, which will be followed with a vote — probably to take place in the month of June — by producers, on the Plan.

While the immediate program includes the three Prairie Provinces, British Columbia and Ontario have indicated they wish to be included. A National Poultry Marketing Committee, has, therefore, been established by the Canadian Federation to assist and co-ordinate the egg marketing program in all interested provinces.

The Plan provides for:

1. Producer control through an elected delegate body who, in turn, will elect the Board.
2. Annual meetings of delegates for the purpose of receiving reports and deciding general policy.
3. Co-operation with similar boards in other provinces.
4. Receiving authority under the Agricultural Products Marketing Act (Federal Bill 82) to enter the interprovincial and export field.
5. Setting up an Interprovincial or National Board to co-ordinate the orderly marketing and disposal of surplus.

Egg Marketing Plan:

Briefly, an Egg Marketing Plan applies the authority of a Provincial Marketing Act, which is general, to the marketing of a particular farm product, in this case eggs. The Plan, broadly speaking, does two things:

1. It enables producers to set up a marketing board.
2. Provides that board with authority to manage the business of marketing their eggs.

Many farmers probably will expect that the Egg Marketing Plan will provide them with the complete information as to how the Board will operate and what it will accomplish. It should be clearly understood that a marketing plan is a very definite instrument. Once it has been approved by the government and by the producers it becomes fixed and cannot be changed without going back for further approval. Therefore, a method of operation cannot be set out in a hard and fast marketing plan. A marketing plan must be looked upon as embodying a principle — the principle of producer control of the marketing of the producer's own products. There are different methods of putting this principle into practice and while methods may need to be changed in the light of experience to meet changing conditions, principles do not change. A vote for or against a marketing plan is a vote for or against this principle.

Egg Marketing Board Operation:

When an Egg Marketing Board is set up it will be to deal with a specific problem and accomplish a very definite purpose. Obviously, if there were no surplus eggs at any time there should be no serious marketing problem. It then follows that the main problem is surplus and the main purpose and operation of a board would be to deal with and dispose of surpluses.

After the main purpose of a marketing plan has been established there are several possible alternative methods of operation which may be

considered. A method of operation would depend largely on both federal and provincial legislation existing at the time and, to some extent, on co-operation of the produce trade group.

There are two main courses of action open to a board. Under the first course the facilities and service of the existing marketing agencies, who have been doing an efficient job in the physical handling field, would be used and thus all marketing agencies operating under a wholesale license could be appointed as agents of the board. (All grain handling organizations are now agents of the Canadian Wheat Board.)

The simplest method of operation would be to keep the domestic market clear of overall surplus and equalize any loss sustained from a reserve provided for by the use of license fees or service charges. However, until federal legislation providing authority to do this is passed, other methods of equalizing loss on disposal of surplus would have to be considered.

Two possible alternative methods are:

- (a) The buying of all eggs for the account of the Board, with resale to the dealers for all trade requirements and providing for a margin which would cover all Board costs of operation including loss, if any.
- (b) A straight pooling system through initial and final payments as practiced by the Canadian Wheat Board. This would not require a reserve for equalizing loss on surplus. Modern bookkeeping machines would make this method appear to be economically practical.

The second possible course of action which may be considered would be for the Board, through a single designated agency, to take over the entire physical handling of eggs in Alberta. In effect, this would mean that the producers would provide for the entire physical handling of their own product through to the retail trade level, a not impossible or new and untried idea. In 1928 the New South Wales Egg Marketing Board in Australia was set up and successfully took over the entire physical handling of eggs, an operation that is still in effect to this day. They use the long-term contract method in disposing of surplus to Great Britain. The two price system is used; i.e. a domestic and an export price.

It should be noted that the contract method is only possible under the board system. This course might be used to good advantage if one province alone were to embark on an egg marketing program.

Price Support and Financing:

It is fully expected that price support will be more readily available under a producer

marketing program than under the open marketing system. This would assist in the matter of financing by underwriting a certain portion of risk. Apart from price support, responsibility for financing the cost of operation belongs to the industry. Under this set up, obtaining the required operating funds by way of a loan should not be a problem.

Scope of Plan:

A marketing plan once established would apply to all persons who produce, handle or market the regulated product, except persons who retail eggs to consumers exclusively. Producers come under the Plan for the purpose of voting on the Plan, election of the delegate body and members of the Board. All persons who keep within the Province, fifty or more laying hens may register and have a vote on the Plan. After the Plan is established, all persons who keep, within the Province, fifty or more laying hens, may be required to register in order to make up a voters' list for the purpose of electing a delegate body and members on the Board.

All eggs going through the commercial market in Alberta, whether a producer is registered or not, come under the Plan excepting all eggs sold by persons who retail to consumers. Sale of eggs by a producer direct to a consumer would be classed as a retail sale and thus excluded. A producer may ask, "If I take a case of eggs to town, under a board, what happens to it?"

If the existing facilities and service are used under the Plan, all dealers would continue to operate as agents of the Board and producers would deliver their eggs to the local grading station or ship where they pleased. It should be clearly understood that while there would be no reason or purpose in control of producer deliveries, in using the existing channels, there must be such control and direction of the product through those channels as will be in the best interests of the producers.

Therefore, a case of eggs will go through the same physical handling as previously, into domestic consumption or sale to outside markets. The product will, however, contribute to a fund which will make possible the sale of export surplus at a loss, if necessary, as compared to the domestic price.

In conclusion, one question should be answered which is most often asked: "If an Egg Marketing Board made egg production profitable, would not farmers produce far too many eggs?"

As stated under "Purpose", the Board shall be responsible for marketing all of the product, et cetera. Therefore, it cannot ignore the law

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Leonard Blanchette of Vimy, Alberta, is sold on the trench silo says J. M. Fontaine, district agriculturist for North Edmonton. Here's what this member of the Farm and Home Improvement Program in Sturgeon River Municipal District No. 92 has to report:

"I wouldn't do without grass silage nor would I go back to the old method of haying. This new way of putting up my first hay crop has eliminated the danger of spoilage. It has assured me a good feed supply and has saved me a lot of unnecessary work during winter months.

"The cattle self-feed themselves. The breeding cows eat the silage from one end of the silo and the fattening stock at the other. Never before, unless grain fed, have my cows come through the winter in such good condition."

These three reasons are more than enough to justify anyone interested in increasing his net returns on the farm to consider having a trench silo, remarks Mr. Fontaine.

DISTRICT 5 CURLING BONSPIEL

The district 5 F.U.A. bonspiel was held February 12 and 13 at Spruce Grove, with 12 rinks representing locals as far away as Sanguo and Morinville competing. A high calibre of curling and an atmosphere of good fellowship were much in evidence.

The first event was captured by the Ray Dramer rink of Villeneuve when they defeated Hector Gervais of St. Albert in the final game.

The second event was taken by the Addie Slaght rink of Winterburn with Louis de Champlain of Legal second.

The third event went to Oliver Sinclair rink of St. Albert with Henry Singer of Spruce Grove second.

In addition to the prizes purchased, prizes were also donated by McLeod Mercantile of Spruce Grove and Imperial Lumber of St. Albert.

of supply and demand. Many farmers would prefer a more stable price than a price which fluctuates from a very high to a very low. They believe, also, that a more stable price, even at a higher average level, would be followed by more stable production. The Board operation would include an information program which, with price, would provide a guide to farmers in planning their production. And, finally, it can be stated that under any given surplus conditions the "Board" System would do a better job for farmers than the "Open" System.

Essay Contest Winners

During October, 1956, the Alberta Livestock Co-operative Limited announced an essay competition concerning the marketing of hogs in Alberta.

The purpose of the competition was to determine the degree of interest in that problem and to try to determine the knowledge of Alberta hog producers concerning the buying and selling of hogs as it is currently in effect. In addition contestants were required to state as to whether or not, as hog producers, they were satisfied with present buying and selling practices, and if not satisfied, to suggest improvements.

The contest closed on February 28, 1957. Judging of entries was completed on March 29th, 1957. The Board of Directors of the Alberta Livestock Co-operative Limited are pleased to announce the following results:

First prize — \$100.00 to Mr. S. M. R. Wheeler, R.R. 5, Ponoka, Alberta.

Second prize — \$50.00 to Mr. John Hallett, Fleet, Alberta.

Third prize — \$25.00 to Mr. N. B. Gillund, R.R. 3, Rimbey, Alberta.

As was announced at the time the contest started, duplicate prize monies will be issued to the Co-operative Livestock Shipping and Marketing Association and to the F.U.A. locals of which winning contestants are members. On this basis the following will be recipients:

The Ponoka Co-operative Livestock Marketing Association: \$100.00.

The Morningside local, Farmers' Union of Alberta: \$100.00.

The Coronation Livestock Co-operative Limited: \$50.00.

The Fleet local, Farmers' Union of Alberta: \$50.00.

The Blindman Valley Co-operative Association Limited: \$25.00.

The Rimbey local No. 933, Farmers' Union of Alberta: \$25.00.

In addition to the foregoing the judges of the competition were unanimously of the opinion that three additional entries were worthy of honorable mention. On that basis your board of directors will award these entrants as follows:

Neil A. Mowatt, Parkland, Alberta: \$25.00.

Chas. E. Boulter, Rosalind, Alberta: \$25.00

Gordon Gehman, Box 175, Okotoks: \$25.00

The Alberta Livestock Co-operative Limited wishes to express its sincere appreciation to all contestants. It is obvious that much thought and effort was expended in the composition of the numerous submissions.

ALBERTA LIVESTOCK CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

Per. C. P. Hayes, President

Alberta Livestock Co-operative Limited

RE: TAX POSTPONEMENT FOR PENSION AND ANNUITY PAYMENTS BY FARMERS AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS

In 1955 the Canadian Federation of Agriculture submitted a brief to the Minister of Finance suggesting that there seemed to be no reason why the income tax concessions enjoyed by employees enrolled under group pension plans should not be extended to individuals who put their savings into this form of retirement fund.

The concession involved is the privilege of deducting pension and annuity payments from taxable income in the years in which they are paid. When, following retirement the pension payments begin the full amount of these payments is taxable if the total income of the taxpayer puts him in the taxable bracket.

The following is an extract from the budget speech of the Minister of Finance dealing with this matter:

"The first of these innovations relates to tax postponement on income set aside for retirement. At present where, under a pension plan, the employer contributes to a retirement fund and withholds part of the employee's remuneration for the same purpose, tax is paid on the pension when received, that is on the cash income when the employee receives it for spending, and not on income flowing into the fund which the employee does not receive in that year.

It is now proposed to introduce a general policy of allowing tax postponement on limited amounts of earned income set aside for retirement by any taxpayer whether an employee or not. This privilege will be of general application.

To be eligible for income tax deduction a taxpayer will be required to file with his return a receipt for an amount paid toward the purchase of a particular kind of annuity. The annuity must be payable in equal annual amounts for the full life of the taxpayer and it may provide upon his death for annual payments to his spouse not exceeding those he was receiving.

The annuity may provide for a term certain up to 15 years. It may be arranged to commence at such time as the taxpayer wishes but its commencement may not be postponed beyond the age of 70

However, once the taxpayer starts receiving payments under an eligible annuity he may make no further income tax deductions for retirement income. These annuities will not be assignable and the person issuing them may not redeem the contract for cash or make any loan against them. With in-payments free from tax

the out-payments under a registered retirement annuity, will, of course, be fully taxable.

Payments toward the purchase of the type of retirement annuity just described will be deductible from income for tax purposes up to 10 per cent of the taxpayer's earned income, but the dollar amount deducted in any year may not exceed \$2,500.00.

If, however, a taxpayer is currently paying into a registered employer-employee pension plan, the dollar limit on his deductions for a separate annuity contract outside the registered plan; together with his contributions already being made under the employee plan, may not be more than \$1,500 a year.

If, for an example, an employee is now contributing 6 per cent of his earnings under a pension plan he may, on his own account, use another 4 per cent of his earned income to purchase a retirement annuity supplementing the pension being built up in his employment, always subject to the maximum of \$1,500.

It is probable that certain groups such as the professions may wish to arrange to manage the fund being built up by contributions of their members. To permit this to be done authority will be asked to allow corporate trustees to accept funds and issue eligible receipts therefor provided that the funds so accepted are subsequently used for the purchase of the approved type of retirement annuity for the contributing taxpayer before he reaches age 70.

The fund accepted by a person eligible to manage or administer a retirement fund may not be returned in cash directly to a contributor but may be returned to his estate upon his death.

The general rule is that the funds so built up must be used by the person managing the fund for the purchase of a retirement annuity for the contributor."

"In subsequent years, if widespread use is made of the plan, it is possible that the annual yield of the income tax may in future be reduced by as much as \$40,000,000.

Whatever the subsequent loss in revenue may be it can, however, be regarded as an indication of the volume of provision being made by Canadian toward freedom from financial worry at a time when their earning power has lessened.

To me, this policy makes good sense. Moreover, the broad effect of this new policy will be anti-inflationary since it will be an encouragement to increased immediate saving which will be productively employed. Encouragement such as that now proposed is, I think amply justified and will, I believe, be well received on all sides."

David Kirk, Secretary,
Canadian Federation of Agriculture.

The Organized Farmer

Editor A. W. PLATT

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EDITORIALS

Abdicating Our Responsibility

In the last few weeks we have had several complaints of various kinds about some of our major co-operatives in the Province. These complaints have been passed on to the Co-operatives concerned. Many of the complaints are just misunderstandings that can be readily straightened out but others are more serious involving major policy matters.

Every one of these co-operatives is democratically controlled. The policy is set by the delegate body. If the policy adopted does not represent farm thinking then farmers are at fault in not making our wishes known.

The philosophy of co-operation involves the assuming of responsibility. You and I as co-op members are part owners of the enterprise and must take the responsibility of helping to formulate policy and see that it is carried out by the management. How far would we get in our own business if we hired a man on our farm and then left him to look after it as he saw fit?

We have a lot of money invested in co-operatives. They have saved us a lot of money in the past and will do so in the future if we do not abdicate our responsibilities.

I am afraid that we are in some cases at

least abdicating these responsibilities. Recently one of Alberta's Farmer Co-operatives held a meeting and only about 60 out of 3000 members attended. The Lethbridge Herald, commenting editorially on this situation, says, "It cannot be pretended that such apparent indifference on the part of the membership is healthy. The virtue of the co-operative movement lies not in widely distributed ownership — many stock companies can boast of that — but in the active participation of the membership in the co-operative affairs. Those who join a co-operative merely to save money, and who assume none of the responsibilities of membership, are ignoring the principles of co-operation and forgetting their own best interests."

Why Not A Food Stamp Plan?

The fear of food surpluses with their depressing effect on prices is always with us, we are constantly being warned that we must be very careful or we will over produce and, while we have little overproduction at the present time with the exception of grains, the fear remains. Perhaps too many of our grain farmers will go out of grain production and into livestock or eggs or poultry products and upset the market. That we can produce a great deal more than we are doing at the present time is obvious to almost anyone.

At the same time there are many groups right here in Canada who do not have the money to buy even the cheap food that is available to them now. There are the low income groups amongst our laboring classes in towns and cities that do not normally earn enough to buy sufficient food for a large family. We are well aware of the position of the old age pensioner and even with the \$6.00 a month extra that he will be getting come July 1st, it still does not allow him to have an abundance and good variety of food products.

Plans have been worked out in detail whereby those with low incomes would be able to supplement their food allowances by means of a food stamp plan. Essentially this plan means that those below a certain income are given trading stamps that enable them to buy certain foods that are in a surplus supply at a very low price or no price at all. It is true that such a plan can be abused by the recipients but even if a small number did abuse it the good that would result might be well worthwhile. In the U.S. it is estimated that such a plan would increase consumption by 3 per cent. If the same is true in Canada it would have a tremendous

effect in reducing our agricultural surpluses. In fact we would probably have to increase production of many lines of agricultural products in order to meet the demand. Wouldn't it seem to be a more sensible idea to do this and see that all the people of Canada are well fed instead of constantly talking about the necessity of decreasing production in order to keep farm prices at a reasonable level?

Another idea along the same line that would increase our consumption of food, and do a great deal for the youngsters of the country, would be a free school lunch program or one that was subsidized heavily by the governments concerned.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL SHOW

The Royal Agricultural Society of England will stage its annual four-day Royal Show at Norwich, this year, from 2nd to 5th July.

A cordial welcome is being extended to all overseas agriculturists, whether engaged in farming, administration, research or teaching, and free guest tickets to the Show will be reserved for them on request.

Those wishing to obtain tickets are invited to write to: The Royal Agricultural Society, 35 Belgrave Square, London, S.W. 1 giving their address in England, to which the tickets will be mailed towards the end of June.



BUSY DAYS

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VETERANS ON THE LAND



One of the hardest things to come across in this life it seems is actual fact, on information that is sought. To get results one must spend long hours on the telephone, or writing letters and waiting for replies. I have been receiving many letters requesting information. Some time has lapsed with regard to some of them, but better late than never. I thought perhaps I could devote this month's column to replying to some of these queries.

A widowed lady from Valleyview has asked about farm loans. We now have the farm improvement loan which can be applied for through any local bank up to \$5,000.00. The provincial government now has a policy of loans available to young farmers in need of assistance. I would suggest that you contact your local M.L.A. for further information on this. The federal government is now in the process of revising its federal farm loan board with a view to extending the amount and the terms of credit. When this is accomplished it should be of assistance to many.

There have been many queries with regard to assistance in the breaking and clearing of land. To my knowledge there is no definite legislation to cover this specific problem. However, I do think it is one that should be covered by legislation. There have been some resolutions submitted in regard to this. In order to get more results we suggest that this matter

be taken up with your local Legion, your local F.U.A., your member of the Alberta legislature, your member of federal parliament and any other group or organization that is interested in these agricultural problems.

Another enquiry from Red Deer asks if there are grants available or loan arrangements for First War Veterans. This gentleman did not say whether he had applied for any after the First World War. There was assistance available under what was then the Soldiers' Settlement Board. However, I would suggest that he contact his local Veterans' Land Act representative. If there isn't one in the close vicinity I suggest that you write to the Department of Veterans' Affairs, Edmonton.

In reference to widows and war veterans receiving medical treatment the same as civilian old age pensioners it appears that the new federal government health plan will cover everyone for medical treatment, either free or for a very small fee.

Please keep your letters coming. Your farmers' union at any level exists to serve you and I the individual. If we do not get results one way we will try another. Any action any one or all of us take is good. The thing is to be up and doing and through these efforts to make a better living for all.

In order that farmers may expand either in land or livestock to the point where they have somewhat of an economic unit, I believe that one of the most beneficial aids would be a federal government loan establishment that would loan farmers the necessary money at a low rate of interest spread over 30 or 40 years. What do you think?

MARCH 1957 MEMBERSHIP RECORD

DISTRICT	March Men	To Date Men	March Women	To Date Women	March Assoc.	To Date Assoc.	March Jrs.	To Date Jrs.	To Date Total
Dist. 1	104	1653	12	454	---	1	4	291	2399
Dist. 2	58	1350	25	354	---	---	11	262	1966
Dist. 3	117	1727	19	442	---	1	16	259	2429
Dist. 4	79	1962	18	502	---	---	16	428	2892
Dist. 5	70	1426	21	521	---	1	18	377	2325
Dist. 6	71	2672	30	1037	2	6	15	521	4236
Dist. 7	60	2682	25	780	---	3	20	407	3872
Dist. 8	65	2112	13	540	---	---	12	324	2976
Dist. 9	95	2179	26	638	---	2	19	329	3148
Dist. 10	109	2420	42	602	1	11	9	247	3280
Dist. 11	141	1313	36	423	4	10	8	163	1909
Dist. 12	73	1814	30	704	---	3	15	315	2836
Dist. 13	139	786	23	291	---	1	8	110	1188
Dist. 14	90	1681	15	386	---	---	---	192	2259
TOTAL	1271	25777	335	7674	7	39	171	4225	37715

FROM A POINT OF LAW:

By A. M. Brownlee

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE DOMESTIC ANIMALS ACT (MUNICIPALITIES)

In the previous article in this column we dealt primarily with the ordinary type of domestic animals which trespassed on property under circumstances which made them subject to impounding. The restrictions with respect to entire animals or mischievous animals are more stringent. The Act provides in Section 4 that no entire animal may run at large in any municipality unless expressly permitted to do so by by-law, while Section 5 states that no mischievous animal may run at large in any municipality under any circumstances. The term "entire animal" refers to any stallion over the age of 15 months, a bull or jack over the age of 9 months, a ram, he-goat or boar over the age of 5 months. The term "mischievous animal" refers to any cross, dangerous, notoriously breachy or mischievous animal, any sheep which is shown to have trespassed on lands enclosed by a fence, whether a lawful fence or not and any hog.

In Section 15 the right is given to any occupier of land in a pound district to capture any entire or mischievous animal running at large and to take it to the nearest accessible pound. It is clear that this right to impound is given regardless of whether such animals happen to be trespassing on the impounder's land. It is further provided that members of the R.C.M.P. may capture entire animals unlawfully running at large and may impound or confine same in a suitable place or may direct some other person to do so. Apparently the R.C.M.P. are not required to take the animal directly to the pound, but can make some other "suitable" arrangement to confine it, and at a later time the animal will be dealt with in the same manner as any other impounded animal. The police or the captor of the animal would, of course, notify the owner in writing, and the owner would have a reasonable chance to redeem his animal.

It is a serious offence for the owner of mischievous animals not to confine or restrain them in such a manner as to protect the public from injury or loss, and he may find himself before a Justice of the Peace on the information

of some complainant. When the owner appears before the Justice of the Peace he must be convicted on the evidence of two credible witnesses other than the complainant. If he is convicted, the Justice may make an order requiring him to confine or restrain the animal or animals in such manner as the Justice may deem necessary. If he should default in compliance with the order he may be subjected to a fine not exceeding \$50.00 and costs for each offence, but in default of payment of the fine he will be committed to the nearest common jail, until payment of the fine or the expiry of 30 days.

The Act contains special provisions as to the trailing of sheep. Where they are being trailed on public roads, trails or road allowances, they must be in charge of the owner or an agent and must be kept moving and under the control of herders, and they must drive a minimum of 5 miles a day. If while they are being driven they are allowed to enter on privately owned or leased lands, whether such lands are fenced or not, the owner shall be liable for damage done on such lands. Also, the owner or occupier of the private lands may seize and hold such sheep until all damages resulting from any entry on his lands has been paid. Such a land owner is in a more advantageous position than the ordinary land owner who has to impound domestic animals in the municipal pound. If there is a dispute between the owner of the sheep and the owner of the land as to the amount of damages it is referred to a Justice of the Peace who in turn appoints three disinterested persons to assess the damage. Section 75 is of particular interest. It states that if the owner of the sheep tries to interfere with the seizure of them by a land owner or occupier on whose lands they have trespassed, the owner of the sheep will be liable to a penalty of as much as \$100.00 and costs. Section 76 goes a step further and provides that a sheep herder who permits the sheep in his charge to wander on to private lands may be further guilty of an offence and liable on conviction to a penalty not exceeding \$10.00 for each such offence.

We have already stated in the previous instalment of this article that extreme care should be taken to follow the provisions of this Act very carefully and this remark applies equally

to either the owner of animals which have been impounded or to the owner of lands who claims that the impounded animals have done damage. We have heard complaints in the past that poundkeepers are not very helpful and at times a little careless. The Act provides a penalty up to \$100.00 for certain offences which may be committed by poundkeepers such as neglecting to properly feed and care for animals which are impounded; working or using them in any manner; failing to keep books and make entries as required; making any incorrect or untrue entry in such books; wilfully or negligently gives any incorrect description of any animal or animals in any case where he is required to give a description; knowingly allows any animal infected with any contagious or infectious disease to be in the same enclosure with any impounded animal not so affected, and generally neglecting to do anything required of him by the Act. If municipal councils have properly instructed their poundkeepers and if poundkeepers have examined the provisions of the Act, we would be inclined to think that for their own personal safety they would be fairly careful.

DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

Plans are now complete for holding district conventions in all FUA districts, commencing with District 1 on June 13.

We want to stress the importance of every local being represented at their district convention. This is the clearing house for the ideas of the membership as expressed through resolutions sent from locals. Each local is entitled to send one delegate for every 10 members or major portion thereof. Visitors are welcome but cannot vote. Be sure to send all resolutions you wish discussed at these conventions to your district secretary.

- District 1 — June 13, Grande Prairie
- District 2 — July 12, Peace River
- District 3 — July 3, Boyle
- District 4 — July 5, St. Paul
- District 5 — June 26, Seba Beach
- District 6 — June 25, Chipman
- District 7 — July 4, Wainwright
- District 8 — June 24, Camrose
- District 9 — June 27, Wetaskiwin
- District 10 — June 28, Olds
- District 11 — June 17, Hanna
- District 12 — June 21, Macleod
- District 13 — June 18, Medicine Hat
- District 14 — June 20, Lethbridge.

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FWUA Section



President's Report

By Mrs. C. T. Armstrong

Egg Marketing Board

After much planning by the committee on Egg Marketing, the locals will now be able to discuss and plan what action they need to take to register as producers and be eligible to vote in the forthcoming plebiscite. It would be well for all members to study the information which has been prepared and sent out, so that proper understanding will be made clear in regards to all aspects of the plan. It will need the interest of all producers, and most certainly it will need their participation in making their wishes known.

Action Committee

In looking over the report of the Action Committee to the F.U.A. convention it seems that the recommendations made have kept us very busy. The delegation to Ottawa has been carried out, and the members have been busy reporting to meetings in various parts of the province. Going from there the political action committee have drawn up some helpful suggestions, which if properly used, would further the good accomplished by the delegation, and the meeting with government members. We have taken action at the provincial level, now the locals and members can do their part. If all of this is kept on a constructive level, then it would serve to bring about better understanding on our F.U.A. program and the intention of others with respect to help we could expect to further our requests. It is interesting to note that other organizations are adopting the same idea, it would seem that others are wanting to know their representatives better, and are trying to provide the opportunity to meet them. We farm people should be very

conscious of the fact, that we should not only vote, but do it intelligently, by that I mean, at least try to know some thing about the candidates before casting your ballot. Who you vote for is your own concern, so make it your business to feel that you have done something worthwhile as a citizen.

Junior Queen

Just a reminder that tickets are being sold in your district to help your own candidates in the Junior Queen Contest. All but three districts have nominated their girl, and information is now out to the locals. This is the way the Juniors raise their money, so do your part to help them.

F.W.U.A. Hi-Lights

It is reported by Jefferson FWUA No. 1401 (Owendale) that they have received a letter from Dr. R. R. MacLean, director, division of mental health, Ponoka, in appreciative acknowledgement of the gift of a record player by this local to the mental hospital at Raymond. It is stressed in this letter that "music in all its various forms rates highest in entertainment pleasure in our hospitals, and a gift of a record player is most appreciated."

* * *

Gleichen FWUA No. 1010 report hearing Mr. Platt speak at Chestermere Lake Hall on April 3 and finding it very interesting. Donations were made to a number of organizations in the past month. It is planned to "adopt" a "forgotten" patient in a mental hospital and will send birthday and Christmas gifts.

Sydenham-Gerald FWUA (Wainwright) No. 710 report sending a resolution to their M.L.A. and the Premier protesting the paying of the \$20 dividends.

* * *

Heath FWUA No. 703 plan to have the district home economist visit them in May, and to hold a bake sale in Wainwright, also early in May. They will help with lunch for the Red Cross Ball, and also plan to have a float in the Stampede parade in June.

* * *

Bon Accord FWUA No. 612 heard an interesting report of the delegation to Ottawa given by Mrs. P. Dowhaniuk, who was one of the delegates. The district home economist also gave a good talk and demonstration on "The Magic of Color in the Home."

* * *

Roll call was answered by interesting items on St. Patrick, at the March meeting of Edmonton FWUA No. 603, and a talk on "foods and freezing" interested those present.

* * *

The members of Burnt Lake FWUA No. 1004 (Red Deer) heard an interesting report, given by Mrs. A. B. Hagerman, a welfare worker, on her work in the Sylvan Lake district. She has handled over \$1,000 worth of used clothing in the past year.

* * *

Plans for new activities were made by the Pine Hill FWUA No. 1013 (Red Deer) at a recent meeting. A talk on Indians, and her trip to Ottawa, was given by Mrs. Braithwaite.

* * *

Fort Saskatchewan FWUA No. 604 report having Mr. Sidney Andrews, horticulturist at R.C.A.F. Command Quarters, Edmonton, speak on floral arrangements and care of house plants. Alberta Horticultural Guides were distributed, together with cuttings, seeds and plants. A donation was made to the Salvation Army.

* * *

Marwayne FWUA No. 716 report a very active time since the beginning of the new year — what with collection of clothes for Unitarian Service Comm., sewing for Lloydminster hospital, etc. A number of donations were made, including one to the Legion Polio Fund. April promises to be very busy also — catering to a reception, sponsoring a mental health drive for funds, filling Easter baskets for the aged. It is planned to have the district home economist attend the May meeting.

* * *

At the March meeting of Stony Plain FWUA No. 501 an interesting discussion was held re the "Egg Marketing Plan", and it was decided to ask for a speaker, from the A.F.A., on the subject.

The members of Craigmyle FWUA No. 1102 have been enjoying a series of health lectures given by their former district nurse. These talks are open to the public. A fund raising whist drive is to be held in April, also the canvass for cancer funds.

* * *

It is planned by Trochu FWUA No. 1025 to hold a rummage sale in May. A nice donation was made to the Red Cross.

* * *

The women members of FUA No. 817, Maple Lodge — have formed a local of their own — Maple Lodge FWUA No. 811 (Viking). Mrs. May Keast organized the local. A very successful bake sale was held by the ladies of the local, in Viking. It is also planned to serve lunch at the sale of a good neighbor, former secretary of the Maple Lodge FUA local. Good wishes go with him from the local.

* * *

Money from a parcel post sale and tea held in March, is to be used by the FWUA, Myrnam Local No. 720, for a visit to some agricultural demonstration or some other venture.

* * *

Viking South FWUA No. 807 report the District No. 8 FWUA Conference will be held in Rosalind on May 29th. The speaker to be Mrs. Armstrong.

* * *

One Tree FWUA No. 1307 (Brooks) held their meeting with the aid of Mrs. Marvin Alberts, their president — Mrs. N. Alberts being away to a Civil Defence Course in Ottawa. A number of donations for worthy causes were decided on. The district home economist, following a pot-luck luncheon at the next meeting, will give a talk on "Left-over dishes."

* * *

The members of Drumheller East FWUA No. 1111, at their last meeting, discussed the matter of the adoption of an orphan in Korea but decided to write for information in this regard before doing anything more about. A discussion was held re the conference to be held in May. Various donations were arranged for.

* * *

A joint FUA - FWUA meeting was held at Staplehurst School in March, and Dr. Wright, Director of Cancer Services for Alberta, gave an address which was much appreciated. This is reported by Stapledene FWUA No. 713 (Lloydminster).

* * *

Sedalia FWUA No. 1110 on reading the Bulletin on Horticulture note particularly the fact that broccoli contains more essential vitamins than oranges. Receipts and a "Thank you" letter from Korea (for tools sent through CARE) were read.

Open Forum

Letters for publication from members and subscribers only in The Open Forum must be brief. Pen names may be used if desired, but the pen name of the sender must accompany the letter. A recent Board of Directors' ruling limits letters to 300 words and those longer cannot be accepted. Readers are asked to observe this change. The F.U.A. does not endorse or accept any responsibility for opinions expressed under this heading.

Dear Sir:

Honest to goodness real farmers who read the Edmonton Journal and rely wholly for a living upon what their land produces probably received quite a shock recently.

I refer to the very interesting publication in the Journal (March 28th) giving the names of prominent citizens in and around Edmonton who ship milk for consumption in the city. It will be noted that the list contains some names who receive large salaries from the public treasury (\$15,000 to \$20,000), but evidently endeavour to augment their income by dabbling in the dairy industry. The name of Premier Manning just naturally leads all the rest.

Now I suppose in this land of freedom there are pros and cons regarding the legal or moral right of professional gentlemen entering into competition with the "honest to goodness farmer" but it certainly is not "cricket", especially in times of surpluses and subsidies. There is something "wolfish" about it and disregard for legislation aimed at curbing "unfair competition". It would seem timely for the Farmers' Union of Alberta to step in and have something to say.

A. E. Sherratt,
Mayerthorpe.

F.U.A. NEWS

Recently the members of the Berrywater FUA No. 1203 made a donation of wheat to be used towards the purchase of a lighting plant for the Community Centre, also in connection with this project a bee of the members was held to install the plant and wire the building. On March 16th, the FUA and FWUA entertained the 4H Calf Club sponsored by the local.

SENIORS INVITE JUNIORS



From left to right in the picture are: Alex McCalla, Wes Carleton, Lenus Meyer, Tom Nemerski, Mrs. P. Dowhaniuk, Barbara Carleton, S. A. Sanford, Wm. Unterschultz, G. A. Wilkinson, Russell Goshko, Harold Hennig, Don Jackson.

District No. 6 Board features the F.U.A. junior members at its meeting. In the centre of the picture is Miss Barbara Carleton, who is a candidate for the F.U.A. Queen. The crowning of the Queen will take place at the University Farm Young People's Week in June. Mr. Alex McCalla is the Junior F.U.A. director. Don Jackson, of Bremner, and Wes Carleton, of Bon Accord, are junior farmers who are getting a first hand training in the management of the F.U.A. business.

DISTRICT SHORT COURSES

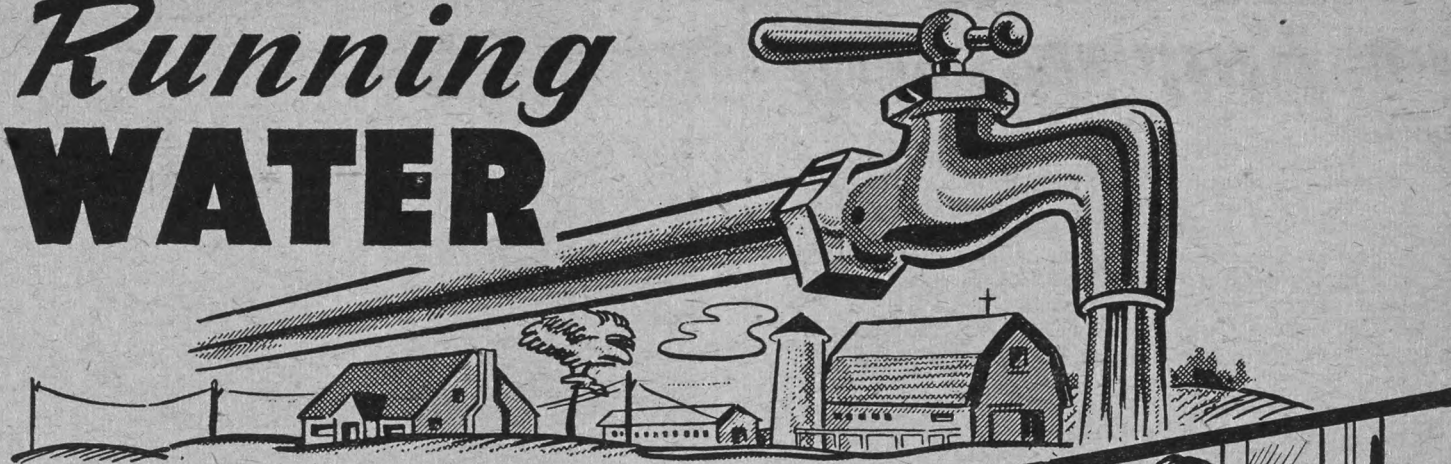
More FUA members enjoyed the district short courses. To date 10 districts participated. The total attendance was 543, representing 172 locals. The attendance increased by 93 over last year.

The short course was conducted by the department of extension from Alberta University, W. G. Logan, FUA co-ordinator, and W. A. Moisey, FUA director of extension. Mr. S. O. Hillebrand spoke in southern Alberta, while Mr. Duncan Campbell spoke in Peace River Block.

The district officials and the speakers reviewed the FUA organization, basic policy and marketing boards. Considerable interest was shown in the discussion of the structure of FUA. The illustration of the principle of the basic FUA policy was received enthusiastically. The review of marketing boards brought out many interesting comments.

At all meetings the members voted to recommend to executives to continue such short courses next year.

Running WATER

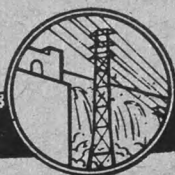
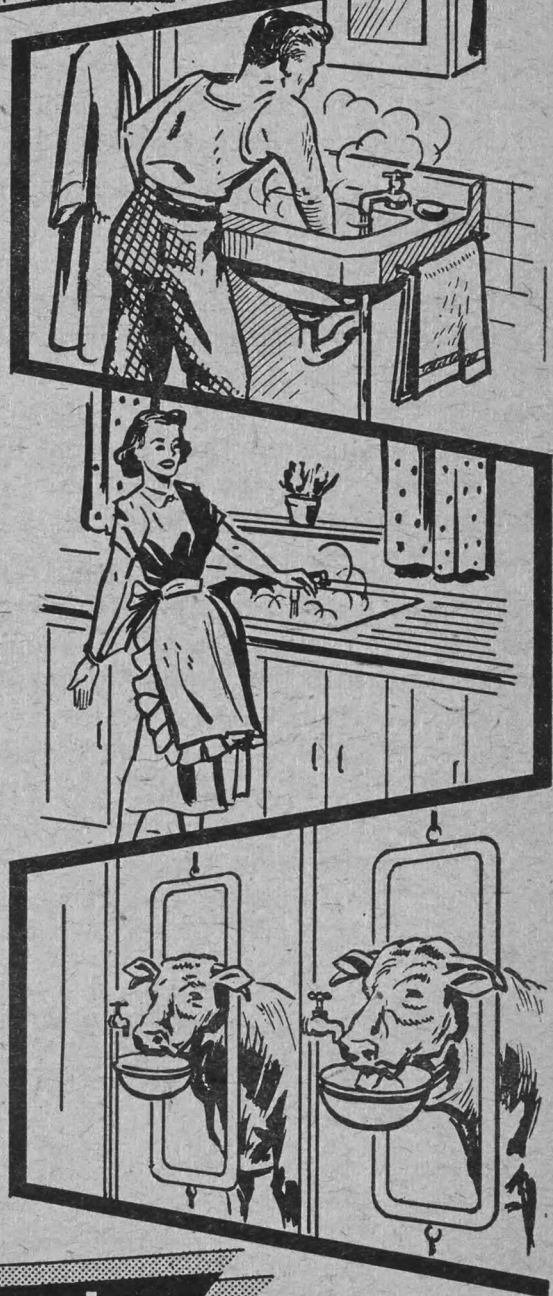


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JUNIORS VISIT ONTARIO

By Aubrey Marler

On the afternoon of March 14, 1957, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Scheidt and Aubrey Marler, three young farm representatives from Alberta, arrived in Ontario where they were the guests of the Junior Farmers' Association of Ontario for a three day Junior Conference at Guelph, and a two week goodwill tour of the province.

Following the Guelph conference, where the Ontario Juniors hold their elections, finish the previous year's business and set up new activities for the forthcoming year, the Alberta delegates separated, with Walter and Elsie Scheidt travelling to Galt to the farm of Dave Barrie, new president of the Ontario Junior Farmers. While staying with Dave they toured the surrounding farms, visited Toronto, and spent many hours enjoying the fabulous collection of antiques, samples of native woods, Indian relics, original manuscripts and newspapers dating back 200 years, to say nothing of the many other curios which include a paper one cent bill, many, many years old.

Among many other things, this modern farm has been televised and filmed for movies in the past few years and is a showplace in itself.

During this time, Aubrey Marler travelled to the southwest corner of Ontario where he was a guest of Art Huffman, at Blenheim near Chatham, Ontario. While there, he helped in the making of maple syrup, hauling of raw tobacco to the processing plant, watched photo-electric white bean graders at work, where each bean is graded individually, and visited a farm where the equivalent of 5 acres of rhubarb are grown, in an area of 18,000 square feet, in the dark in a large barn. Six people are kept busy most of the latter part of the winter and early spring, picking, packing and caring for the rhubarb in this odd type of farming. The farming in this part of Ontario is very intensified with corn, beef, white beans, soya beans, tobacco, tomatoes, maple syrup, truck gardening, fruit farming, along with wheat, oat and barley making up the main crops and giving year around employment. Even so, many farmers in this area find time to spend a few weeks in Florida during the winter months.

Following their separate courses, the Alberta delegates travelled north and east through Ontario, visiting farms, a junior drama festival,

seed fairs, finally coming together in the Kingston and Ottawa area. Here they visited a large bee farm or apiary, a dairy farm where 100 Jersey cows are being milked, toured Kingston with its historic forts, and saw some of the Thousand Islands in the mighty St. Lawrence River.

One day was spent visiting the St. Lawrence Seaway Project, an undertaking so large that it is impossible to realize the changes it will make in Eastern Canada and Canada as a whole. While in Ottawa, they were the guests of Russell and Betty McAllister, Russell being the Ontario delegate to Alberta in 1956 and past president of the Ontario Juniors.

A visit was made to the Parliament Buildings where they watched the House of Commons in session. The delegates were entertained in the Commons Dining Room by Mr. Stanton, M.P. for Leeds County, Ontario, and saw some of the dignitaries of Parliament as they came and went from the large and beautiful dining room. Following lunch, Mr. Stanton guided the delegates on a tour of the House of Commons, a visit to the top of the Peace Tower, and made arrangements for a tour of the Mint where they watched the making of pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and silver dollars. A fast sightseeing tour of Ottawa and Hull, Quebec, was made, many pictures taken and the delegates boarded a train to Haldimand County on the Niagara Peninsula.

Arriving in Cayuga, Ontario, the delegates were met by Keith Richardson and an old friend of the group, Miss Josephine Bird, last year's delegate to Alberta. They were shown a wonderful time in Haldimand, as they were everywhere in Ontario. The Albertans were taken on a tour along the Welland Canal, then to the breathtaking sight of Niagara Falls. The day was warm and sunny, making beautiful rainbows in the rising mists as the rushing waters cascaded to the rocks below — to slide out of sight under the foamy white ice beneath the beautiful Rainbow Bridge. The evening was spent in Buffalo, N.Y., watching the amazing life-like film of "Cinerama Seven Wonders of the World", the beauties and wonders of which are indescribable.

All too soon the last day of the tour arrived and the Albertans returned to their starting point of the tour, where good-byes were said to old and new friends alike, closing a chapter in the lives of the three young people from Alberta, a time in their lives that they will never forget.

Our Democracy In Danger

By Henry Young

Democracy in Canada is in a decline. There are many signs of this which the thoughtful person can read. The lack of interest in public affairs, the cynical attitude of the general public towards politics and politicians, the diminishing vote at elections, the public indifference to good actions, etc. All these are symptoms of a malady which afflicts our democracy. This does not mean necessarily that democracy will die in Canada, but it is certainly in danger. It is well for those of us who believe in the democratic system to examine the causes of its decline and the remedies (if any) which can be applied.

First of all, what is the reason behind our people's attitude towards public affairs? It was not always thus, as the old-timers here will remember. In the early years of this century people took a keen and personal interest in all public matters. One has only to remember the furious contests at election times, which included fist fights and thousands of challenged votes, to realize the difference today. While that old-fashioned rough stuff is not desirable it did denote a keen interest which is lacking today.

In my opinion there are two main reasons why the younger Canadians of today, with some rare exceptions, take so little interest in their own public affairs. First there is the false but widespread belief that the average man can best serve his own interests by concentrating on his own private business or job, and ignoring what his political servants do in his name. There is also a parallel idea spread by some groups that nothing we do on this earth matters anyhow and the only thing worth while is to concentrate on the next world. Both these doctrines play right into the hands of the big interests which seek to exploit the public at every turn. Public indifference is their big opportunity.

The second reason, and perhaps the big one, is the widespread disgust and disillusionment with our Canadian political parties and politicians. The general opinion of the average citizen is that politics is a dirty game and that most of those engaged in it are there to feather their own nests rather than to work for the public good. This opinion is strengthened by the political jockeying which goes on in Parliament, and the various Legislatures, by the many political promises made only to be broken, and by such things as the spectacle of our legislators voting themselves generous salary increases while ignoring those in much greater need. The

result is that, today, far too many Canadians have written off their political system as hopeless, they take little or no interest in it, and if they vote at all it is a negative rather than a constructive one.

Actually, of course, things are not as bad as they seem. There are many good and sincere members in Canadian politics in all parties, members whom money could not buy. However, their efforts always seem to be stultified by the political party system under which they operate so that their work in Parliament seems largely wasted.

The system of Cabinet rule which has developed in Canada, stultifies the private members of Parliament. Their frustrations can be felt by anyone in contact with them. While the members of Opposition parties in the House are denied any real part in determining public policy, the private members of the government party are in some ways in even worse position. In many cases they are forced to vote against the things their constituents want in order to protect their party. This puts them in a wrong light, and is one of the chief causes of the scorn with which the average voter regards politics and politicians.

The iron grip of the Canadian party system is growing worse as time goes on. Once the Cabinet determines a policy and the majority of the government party caucus can be induced to agree, then every government member must support that policy or run the risk of being denounced as traitor. Over their heads the Cabinet also holds the threat of dissolution and a new election if they do not conform. This system gives the Cabinet a virtual dictatorship. Instead of policies being decided by the majority of the people's elected representatives weighing the merits of each case, they are decided by the few having regard largely to party advantage.

This is the thing which frustrates the private members both government and opposition. This is the thing which causes so many Canadians to hold parliamentary process in contempt. Unless a radical reform of our political system is undertaken it is useless to urge people to participate in federal or provincial affairs.

Our Federal Government is the biggest business in Canada. It should be run on business lines. The House of Commons is, or should be Canada's board of directors. What would anyone think of a corporation which divided its directors into government and opposition, with one group trying to prevent what the other is doing and both sides playing politics?

In my opinion this is just as idiotic in politics as it would be in business. Our system of government is far behind the times and needs a radical

WORK OF BRITAIN'S NATIONAL FARMERS' UNION

By Peter Giles, English Agricultural Correspondent

In any country town in England and Wales one can be certain of finding such essential features of national life as a post office, a police station, a number of churches — and the local offices of the National Farmers' Union.

The National Farmers' Union — it is usually known as the N.F.U. for short—is not even 50 years old. Yet it is now such an important body, locally and nationally, that it would be difficult to think of life in the country, and particularly among farmers, without it.

Entirely Non-Political

Yet the N.F.U. — which is an employers' revision. If our people are to be aroused to take a larger part in public affairs they must be given the opportunity to have a more direct and effective part in those affairs. At present the only choice the average voter has is to choose between an opposition candidate who has no direct voice in legislation, and a government candidate who must dance to the tune played by the Cabinet. This situation is exactly the same in the provincial field as in the federal, and in Alberta politics party discipline seems to be the most rigid and hidebound of all. No wonder many voters care little if they vote or not.

Since 1867 there have been sweeping changes within Canada. Our methods of business and production have been transformed. But in our politics we are still in the oxcart era. Grandpa's methods are not good enough for today. It is certainly time for a change not merely of parties, but of political procedures. As a start I would suggest the following:

1. That no government be considered defeated in the house except on a direct vote of want of confidence.
2. That all legislation introduced by any government stand or fall on its own merits and no Cabinet or Minister have the right to make its passage a test of confidence in the government.
3. That any member of Parliament or a Legislature have the right to introduce any kind of legislation into the house.

The adoption of these three points would make a start in modernizing our political system and restoring vitality to Democracy in Canada. It should be followed by a people's movement to put Canadian public affairs on a basis of common sense instead of political partisanship. Unless something along these lines is done, public interest in public affairs will continue to decline with results disastrous for the future.

organization and not a trades union in the accepted sense — is not solely a local organization. The work of serving local farming interests which goes on in its offices in small, and large, provincial towns is only one side of its work. There are certain agricultural problems common to farmers throughout the country; and to deal with these national problems the N.F.U. also exists as a powerful national organization.

This organization (whose new headquarters in London were opened last year by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother) is made up of, and is representative of, the 59 county and 1,200 local branches which compose the N.F.U. and speaks, at national level, and with a united voice, for all the farmers in England and Wales.

The important thing about the N.F.U. nationally, is that it is entirely non-political. It sponsors no candidates in national or local elections, nor is it associated directly or indirectly with any political party. In the past it has in fact supported — and also fiercely criticized — all political parties in so far as their policies were regarded as favourable or unfavourable to agriculture as a whole.

The fact that the membership of the Union, at over 200,000, includes about 90 per cent of the farmers of England and Wales, guarantees its importance as a mouthpiece of the industry. And since (as in all industrialized countries) agriculture in Britain is assisted by the state — through a detailed system of price supports, legislation for marketing schemes, and the like — the fact that the N.F.U. alone speaks for the farmers of England and Wales in negotiating with the government on these matters confirms its influence, which is the greater because of its refusal to nominate candidates or even support any one political party. This means in effect that in all matters requiring consultation and negotiation with the government the N.F.U. need consider only those things which concern the wellbeing of the industry generally.

Marketing Policy

The national activities of the Union affect, in various ways, every single farmer — and farmer's family — in England and Wales. In its marketing policy, for example, and (although this is a question of choice) in its insurance facilities.

It was the N.F.U. which between the wars sponsored marketing boards for milk, potatoes, wool, hops, tomatoes and cucumbers. These schemes are still in operation, and it is through them that guaranteed prices, as they affect some of these commodities — can be offered. To these boards has more recently been added a wholesale meat marketing organization operated by what is called the Fatstock Marketing

Corporation. This is the farmer's own outlet for his beef, mutton and pork; and through it, as through (say) the Milk Marketing Board, he can be certain of a reasonable price for his produce.

The N.F.U. Mutual Insurance Society, founded by the Union as a co-operative undertaking, has now grown into a very considerable organization, although its members (but not customers) must be members of the Union. Its operations have now extended beyond England and Wales, and branches have been set up in Northern Ireland, Scotland, the Rhodesias and Kenya. It is of course optional whether N.F.U. members insure with the Society; in practice a very great many do.

There are other ways in which the work of the N.F.U. on a national rather than a local scale is of service to its members. Perhaps the chief is in connection with lawsuits. The N.F.U. assists in the defence of members going to law where some general principle affecting farming is concerned or where — and this is obviously a service of outstanding value — the member seems to be threatened by powerful state or industrial interests. Such services are in addition to the considerable legal service which is provided by the county branches themselves for their members.

Exchange Of Young Farmers

The N.F.U. also has its international side. With its sister unions in Northern Ireland and Scotland it forms the United Kingdom delegation to the International Federation of Agricultural Producers — a world federation of farmers founded in 1945 largely on the initiative of the N.F.U. after a world tour by its leaders. It is responsible also for the organized exchange of young farmers with the United States and Western Europe.

The Union realizes the great importance of developing an understanding between townsman and countryman. Its local branches touch country life at all points, and often act as the best public relations service farming could wish. In co-operation with local papers, for example, they have arranged farm "walks" for city dwellers round typical local farms; they arrange "Brains Trusts" in which panels of speakers answer questions on farming matters; they seek farms which may be adopted by schools in nearby towns or cities; and sponsor clubs, competitions, debates, and indeed anything else which can lead to an increased understanding, on the part of countryman and townsman, of the fascinating variety which country living and country working can mean in Britain today.

JUNIOR F.U.A. QUEEN CONTEST

The winner of this contest will be guest at Farm Young People's Week and will be crowned queen at the dance and banquet which is held during the week. She will have two ladies-in-waiting, runners-up in the contest. Work for the girl in your district be it selling tickets, putting on dances, etc. and introduce the girl wherever possible.

The Juniors are sponsoring this contest to raise funds for their projects. They only put one campaign each year and we would appreciate your help by supporting the candidate in your district.

The candidates are:

Doris Shemelko — District 2.
Emily Arndt — District 3.
Hannah Anderson — District 4.
Gladys Reed — District 5.
Barbara Carleton — District 6.
Rita Marchand — District 7.
Gail Oberg — District 8.
Violet Cordon — District 9.
Maureen Elliott — District 10.
Joyce Kuich — District 11.
Shirley Burgess — District 12.

FARMERS' HOLIDAY JUNE 14th

After much thought and effort by farm organization, the second Friday in June was proclaimed and set aside as a Farmers' Holiday. This was done in recognition of the part our forefathers, Alberta's pioneers played in helping to build Alberta as we know it today.

This is our day, "The Farmers' Holiday". A day for relaxation and enjoyment. It can be at the lake side, or for local and community activities. Help to make your local "doings" on this day a success, make your plans now. A few committees have already been set up and are busy planning for the "Big Day" — June 14th. Some activities will be small friendly picnics. Some locals are planning joint efforts and more enterprising committees have broadened their scope of ideas for fun and competition to include a complete sub-district.

What are your plans?

Member participation in these F.U.A. events have been decreasing instead of increasing. This is a serious situation. This day was intended for our use but if our members are not interested in taking advantage of this privilege it will certainly be removed from the calendar. Would you want this to happen?

Surely we can spare time off from work to visit, and fraternize with our fellowmen on this one day each year?

FARM PRICE SUPPORTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES

It is a good idea to take a look at farming in other countries once in a while. While comparisons cannot always be made with accuracy the developments abroad are of interest and often helpful in assessing our own position.

For example the Secretary of Agriculture for France, Mr. Dulin, in a recent press conference, defined two current aspects of the French government policy on agriculture as: (1) Increasing farm income and (2) Fixing minimum farm prices at the beginning of the growing season to help farmers plan production. This fixing of farm prices at the beginning of the season is exactly the same thing as the forward pricing of our Price Support Program.

The increase of farm income is influenced by various government plans: 1. Modernization in equipment of the rural sector especially in the low income areas. 2. Development of agricultural education, research and extension. 3. Various measures of long term assistance to family run farms.

Commenting on the importance of a sound price policy Mr. Dulin stated, "The potential growth of our agriculture is considerable and if farmers respond to the challenge the output will rise to a marked degree. In order that higher production does not lead to a drop in prices, and of farm income, it is indispensable to set prices at the beginning of the growing season which furthermore allows farmers to plan their production." Mr. Dulin's statements are backed up by the French budget. The 1957 budget was brought down recently and contained certain sums for agricultural price support and organization of markets as follows:

	Mil. Dollars
Organization of Livestock & Meat Markets	16.0
Support of the Wine Market	34.2
Support of Dairy Products Market	16.9
Mutual Guarantee Fund for Agriculture	8.5
Animal Breeding Grants	0.5
Inspection of Abattoirs and Canneries	0.2
Combatting Animal Diseases	14.8
15% Subsidy on Purchases of Farm Machinery	57.1
National Fund for Agricultural Progress	2.5
Tax Free Gasoline for Farm Use	38.5
Subsidy on Liming	2.9

One can readily see that Mr. Dulin's idea of what should be done for agriculture is a great deal different from what Mr. Gardiner suggests in Canada. It is also of interest that the budget in France for agricultural purposes is a great deal different from the recent budget that was brought down in Canada.

Now let us take a look at the Netherlands.

The Canadian Agricultural Secretary in the Hague reports that the Netherlands government has submitted for parliamentary approval a revised farm policy designed to strengthen the agrarian sector of the economy and assure a reasonable level for farm income and wages.

The proposed policy revision would make available an extra fifty million dollars for agricultural assistance in the form of higher guaranteed prices and increased farm wages. The new support measure provides for improved standards of remuneration to farm owners for their productive services and investment in land and building as well as an increase of 5% in the wages to farm labor. Incorporated in these measures is a net increase in the rental valuation placed upon land and buildings designed to offset inflated land values and at the same time allow for actual maintenance and replacement costs.

Farm income would stand to gain 31.2 millions from the new cost price calculations while labor would receive 6.2 millions in wage increases. An additional sum of 12.5 millions would be blocked for the account of the dairy farm owners from the guaranteed price applicable to dairy products, to be used as deferred compensation for the rental increase to which this group would be entitled under the new policy. Consumers would be charged directly 15 million of the new allocation through higher food prices while the balance of 35 millions would come from the Agricultural Equalization Fund financed by state revenues.

In Britain we find very much the same trends. On February 14th the United Kingdom Minister of Agriculture was asked in Parliament to give details of the latest estimates of the cost of the agricultural support in the financial year 1956 - 57. The figures given show that the estimated total cost of agricultural support in the current financial year amounts to 629.3 million dollars compared with 551.8 millions the year before. The subsidy for cereals totalled 69.7 million, for eggs 75 million, and for fat stock 201 million. In a later report it was noted that the subsidy on eggs might well amount to 94½ million due to the abnormally high rate of this past year. In addition there were increases in production grants, the total of which was 190.3 million dollars.

It is no wonder that Canadian farmers find it difficult to compete in world markets. The wonder is that that they are able to remain in business at all considering the limited amount of support that is afforded them by the Canadian Government.—A.W.P.

Use Pool Elevators And Save

One sure way you can save money is by using your own Alberta Wheat Pool Elevators whenever you deliver grain.

This is because Pool elevators are entirely farmer-owned and operate to provide members with service, savings and protection and not to pay profits to shareholders.

Grain is handled on a cost basis and earnings are returned to members as patronage dividends. These dividends can mean big savings for you.

Here's how an average farmer has benefitted. By delivering only 3,000 bushels of wheat a year for the past 15 years he has received these patronage dividends:

Cash Dividend	\$426
Reserve Credits	864
Total Patronage Dividend	\$1290

This saving of nearly \$1300 or about \$100 a year made simply by patronizing Pool elevators.

You, too, can benefit by delivering all your grain to your local Alberta Wheat Pool Elevator.

